



City of Miami Springs, Florida

The Miami Springs City Council held a **REGULAR MEETING** in the Council Chambers at City Hall on Monday, May 11, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

The following were present:

Mayor Billy Bain
Vice Mayor Bob Best
Councilwoman Jennifer Ator
Councilman Daniel Espino
Councilman George V. Lob

Also Present:

City Manager James R. Borgmann
Assistant City Manager Ronald K. Gorland
City Attorney Jan K. Seiden
Chief of Police Peter G. Baan
Finance Director Leacroft E. Robinson
Public Works Director Robert T. Williams
City Clerk Magalí Valls

2. Invocation: Councilman Espino offered the invocation.

Salute to the Flag: The audience participated.

3. Awards & Presentations:

3A) Presentation of Certificates of Recognition to the Springs River Festival Art and Writing Contests Winners

Mayor Bain and Melisa Pascual from the Beyond the Bell Learning Center presented Certificates of Recognition to the winners of the Springs River Festival Art and Writing contest.

Ms. Pascual thanked the Mayor, Council and City Clerk for their help with the awards, as well as the students for their participation and hard work. She stated that they would be contacting some of the students to obtain their permission to display their work at the learning center that will open in June at 75 North Royal Poinciana Boulevard.

(Mayor Bain called a five-minute recess)

4. Open Forum:

Pawn Shops

Helen Lawrence of 641 Nightingale Avenue read a letter that she had sent to Council expressing her concern about pawn shops and how they operate. She stated that pawn shops provide small loans for items that are valued at much more, and if they are not reclaimed by the original owners within a certain amount of time, the property is confiscated by the shop owner and sold for a profit. She felt that poor people are not the only pawn shop customers and that they also attract drug addicts and criminals who sell stolen goods.

Ms. Lawrence wondered if the Jiménez Group would deal in stolen goods from all over the world, since they are an international company. She felt that a pawn shop would not be advantageous for Miami Springs.

Cashier's Hours of Operation

Franklin De Mello of 1355 Ludlam Drive asked Council to reconsider the hours of operation for the cashier window on the days that bills are due. He knows that Council approved the hours of operation from 8:00 to 4:00 p.m. and to close for lunch for one hour, but it is very busy at the window with only one cashier.

5. Approval of Council Minutes: (5A and 5B simultaneously approved)

5A) 04/22/2009 – Special Meeting

Minutes of the April 22, 2009 Special Meeting were approved as written.

Vice Mayor Best moved the item. Councilman Lob seconded the motion which was carried 5-0 on roll call vote.

5B) 04/27/2009 – Regular Meeting

Minutes of the April 27, 2009 Regular Meeting were approved as written.

Vice Mayor Best moved the item. Councilman Lob seconded the motion which was carried 5-0 on roll call vote.

6. Reports from Boards & Commissions:

6A) 04/21/2009 – Education Advisory Board – Minutes

Minutes of the April 21, 2009 Education Advisory Board meeting were received for information without comment.

6B) 05/05/2009 – Code Enforcement Board – Cancellation Notice

Cancellation Notice of the May 5, 2009 Code Enforcement Board meeting was received for information without comment.

6C) 05/13/2009 – Golf and Country Club Advisory Board – Cancellation Notice

Cancellation Notice of the May 13, 2009 Golf and Country Club Advisory Board meeting was received for information without comment.

6D) 05/04/2009 – Board of Adjustment – Approval of Actions Taken at their Meeting of May 4, 2009

Actions taken by the Board of Adjustment at their meeting of May 4, 2009 were approved subject to the 10-day appeal period.

Councilman Espino moved to approve the actions taken by the Board of Adjustment, subject to the ten day appeal period. Councilman Lob seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 on roll call vote.

City Attorney Seiden was informed by the City Planner that there might be an appeal on one of the cases regarding a side yard setback, which could be scheduled for the next Regular Council meeting.

Council agreed to schedule the Board of Appeals meeting for May 26, 2009 if an appeal is filed.

7. Public Hearings:

7A) Ordinance – Second Reading – An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Miami Springs Initiating and Requesting a Boundary Change, by Annexation, for the City of Miami Springs of Certain Identified and Specified Contiguous and Adjacent Unincorporated Areas of Miami-Dade County; Providing City of Miami Springs City Council Approval; Delineating the Requested Annexation Boundary Change by Miami-Dade County; Authorizing all Appropriate and Consistent Actions by City Officers, Officials, and City Council Members; Directions to the City Clerk for Actions Required by this Ordinance; Repealing all Ordinances or Parts of Ordinances in Conflict; Effective Date (Advertised: 04/29/2009)

City Attorney Jan K. Seiden read the ordinance by title.

Mayor Bain opened the public hearing to those persons wishing to speak. There were no speakers, and the public hearing was closed.

Vice Mayor Best moved to adopt the ordinance. Councilwoman Ator seconded the motion.

City Attorney Seiden informed Council that he contacted Medley Town Attorney Mel Wolfe who has been working on the joint resolution for the four cities. He assured him that it would be finished by early next week.

The motion was carried 5-0 on roll call vote (Ordinance No. 977-2009).

(Mayor Bain called for a five-minute recess)

8. Consent Agenda: (Agenda Items 8A and 8B were approved with one motion)

8A) Approval of the City Attorney's Invoice for April 2009 in the Amount of \$9,938.50

There was no discussion regarding this item.

Vice Mayor Best moved to approve the items on the consent agenda. Councilwoman Ator seconded the motion, which carried unanimously on roll call vote.

8B) Recommendation that Council Approve an Expenditure of \$5,900.00 to USA Software, Inc., the Sole Source Supplier, as provided in Section 31.11 (E) (6) (c) of the City Code, to Purchase Four Software Licenses and Annual Software Support, to be Paid out of the Law Enforcement Trust Fund

City Manager Borgmann read the title of the recommendation. He explained that regardless of the amount, Council must always approve expenditures from the Law Enforcement Trust Fund.

Vice Mayor Best moved to approve the items on the consent agenda. Councilwoman Ator seconded the motion, which carried unanimously on roll call vote.

9. Old Business:

9A) Appointments to Advisory Boards by the Mayor and Council Members

Vice Mayor Best (Group I) **appointed** Maria Garrett to the Code Review Board for an unexpired term ending on April 30, 2012.

Mayor Bain **re-appointed** Francisco Fernández to the Board of Adjustment/Zoning and Planning Board for a full 3-year term ending on April 30, 2012.

Councilman Lob (Group III) **appointed** Richard Barnes to the Disability Advisory Board for a partial term ending on December 31, 2010.

Mayor Bain **re-appointed** Wendy Cee Anderson to the Ecology Board for a full 3-year term ending on April 30, 2012.

Councilwoman Ator (Group IV) **appointed** Amy Klose to the Ecology Board for a partial term ending on April 30, 2010.

9B) Recommendation that Council Approve an Expenditure of \$28,949.48 to Communications International, Inc., Utilizing Florida State Contract Number 725-001-01-1, as provided in Section 31.11 (E) (5) of the City Code to Purchase Eight New Portable Two-Way Radios and Required Accessories for Police Communications (This expenditure request replaces the request of \$21,000 approved by Council on September 22, 2008)

City Manager Borgmann read the title of the award. He explained that this request is actually a replacement for an approved expenditure of \$21,000 from September 22, 2008, that is a necessary upgrade for the future.

Chief of Police Baan stated that in September 2008, different radio models were ordered. While waiting for the order to come in, it was discovered that the radio would not take advantage of several features that are available on the County's radio system, specifically some interoperability features that allows communication with other agencies on mutual aid frequencies, which is of paramount importance. The funds were carried over from the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 budget and there is sufficient funding in the Machinery and Equipment account to make up the price difference.

Chief Baan explained that as of October 2009, there will be no service contract available on the hand held radios and as of October 2010, the mobile radios will not be covered by contract because of their age. This purchase is part of the replacement program.

Councilman Lob moved the item. Councilwoman Ator seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 on roll call vote.

9C) Report to Council on their Goal Setting Meeting, Summary of Items

City Manager Borgmann stated that a spreadsheet was prepared to tally the comments that were made at the April 22, 2009 Special Meeting about the different goals and objectives and what seemed most important. He said that commercial revitalization appeared to be first on the list.

Mayor Bain referred to the spreadsheet and noted that the bike path, Curtiss Parkway lighting and the skateboard park are further down the line. He asked Council if some of the priorities should be decided by a vote. The only initials on the list next to the bike path are Vice Mayor Best's and he would like to know if the other Council members support the bike path.

Councilman Espino felt that the list reflects who discussed the topics, not who is for or against each project.

City Manager Borgmann explained that the list shows who brought each issue forward and where it ranked in their personal order of importance.

Councilwoman Ator stated that part of the confusion was the way the Special meeting progressed. The discussion started with Vice Mayor Best who made comments based on the sheet that had been provided and then Councilman Espino continued with a more global discussion. She would agree that all the goals are important.

Mayor Bain expressed his desire to consider the skateboard park locations and the cost. He would have liked Council's direction to the City Manager to pursue the project and now three weeks have passed since the April 22nd Special Meeting and nothing has been done.

City Manager Borgmann assured the Mayor that the Administration had not stopped working on the various projects and they are looking into the insurance requirements for the skateboard park.

Mayor Bain was concerned because the skateboard park appears to be fifth on the list.

Vice Mayor Best commented that his interest in the bike path was generated from the report that was received on the removal of the pine trees and the available funding for the project, which could save a large amount of money, as well as solve the bike path problems that have occurred during the last five years.

Mayor Bain reiterated that he would like an understanding of whether or not Council wanted to pursue the skateboard park.

Councilwoman Ator explained that she added Recreation programs to the list and a skateboard park would fall under the same category. She supports the park and is interested in seeing the options for the three sites.

Mayor Bain agreed with Councilwoman Ator about Recreation programs, which everyone discussed at the Special Meeting.

Vice Mayor Best recalled that \$75,000 was budgeted for the skateboard park.

City Manager Borgmann explained that \$75,000 was not budgeted or earmarked in the reserves.

Councilman Espino said that Council needs more information in order to make a decision about any of the projects or recreation programs. He does not feel that Council should look at the list and come to a conclusion as to who is supporting a particular project.

Mayor Bain emphasized that many young people and parents are in pursuit of a skateboard park and one month has already gone by without information coming forward. Commercial revitalization will begin by holding a Town Hall meeting to review past studies and concepts. He asked if parking and signage should be included with that meeting.

Councilman Espino felt that signage and parking should be combined, as referenced by the City Manager. His main points with regard to commercial revitalization were parking and signage because they are cost effective measures that could bring about positive change.

Vice Mayor Best commented that many projects are within grasp, while others involve a process that will take more time.

Mayor Bain agreed that commercial revitalization, parking and signage would be topics for one meeting. He felt that Code Enforcement would involve too much discussion to be combined with another issue, unless it is combined with the wireless internet.

Councilman Lob suggested adding commercial recycling because it involves the Downtown area.

Vice Mayor Best felt that energy efficiency and cost reduction measures could be combined with commercial recycling.

Councilman Espino stated that updating the Code and improving Code Enforcement and public relations for the Building Department was a very big issue.

Mayor Bain suggested scheduling a meeting to discuss the first three items and in the interim, Council should notify the City Manager if they feel there is another item on the list that should be included.

City Attorney Seiden asked if Council had been provided with copies of all the revitalization reports. He said that it is a question of when Council feels they will be ready to discuss the topic based upon their review of the back up documentation, which is substantial.

City Manager Borgmann stated that June 4th would be appropriate because the budget meetings begin after the July break and Council could give direction to the Administration to budget funds for certain projects.

Council **scheduled** a Workshop meeting for Thursday, June 4, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss commercial revitalization, parking and signage and technology improvements.

Councilman Espino announced that he would host a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce at the Miami Springs Country Club on Wednesday, May 13, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. regarding commercial revitalization and the enhancement of commercial areas. He hopes to get the citizens and business owners involved in the process.

Mayor Bain asked the City Manager if the County update on the Circle traffic study would be finished before June 4, 2009. The City Manager replied that it would not be ready for two months.

City Attorney Seiden advised Council that if they were planning to attend the meeting with Councilman Espino and the Chamber of Commerce that they could not participate in the discussion unless the City Clerk advertises the meeting.

Councilwoman Ator stated that she was invited by the Chamber of Commerce to attend the June meeting. She cannot attend on Wednesday, May 13th because it is the night of the Neighborhood Watch meeting.

Councilman Espino explained that the purpose of the meeting is to get the residents involved in the commercial revitalization effort.

City Attorney Seiden clarified that the City is required by law to make every reasonable effort to advertise meetings that might cause a conflict since more than one member might attend.

Council **agreed** that the City Clerk should advertise the meeting at the Miami Springs Golf and Country Club on Wednesday, May 13, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

9D) Site Plan Review – Community Center – Discussion Item (Special Meeting may be required)

City Manager Borgmann stated that the final site plan for the Community Center is expected back from Post, Buckley, Schuh & Jernigan, Inc. (PBS&J) on Tuesday, May 12, 2009.

City Manager Borgmann said that if there are no further comments to address, courtesy notices will be hand-delivered to the neighborhood inviting them to attend a Special Meeting of the Zoning and Planning Board on Wednesday, May 20th. Following approval by the Zoning and Planning Board, the site plan will be forwarded to Council for final review and approval at the May 26, 2009 Regular Meeting.

City Attorney Seiden explained that the site plan review process involves a technical engineering review and the applicant is required to provide funding for the review of the plan by PBS&J to ensure that it complies with all requirements for new construction. The site plan is returned to the City with any comments, questions or requests for revisions, which has already taken place for the Community Center site plan. PBS&J will issue a final report, which the Zoning and Planning Board is required to review before it is brought to Council as a final act.

10. New Business:

10A) Resolution – A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Miami Springs Providing for the Ninth Amendment to the FY2008-2009 Budget; Providing for the Transfer of the Prior Budgetary Appropriation and Establishment of the Current Budgetary Appropriation to the City Capital Projects Fund Budget for the City Curtiss Mansion Phase No. 1 Construction Project; Finding the Appropriateness of the Budgetary Amendment Set Forth Herein; Effective Date

City Attorney Jan K. Seiden read the resolution by title.

City Manager Borgmann explained that the resolution provides for the transfer of the prior budgetary appropriation and establishes a current budgetary appropriation to the City Capital Projects Fund budget for the rehabilitation of the Curtiss Mansion.

To answer Vice Mayor Best's question, City Manager Borgmann clarified that the City acquired \$1.5MM for the Community Center from the original General Obligation Bond (GOB) issue and CMI received \$1MM for the Curtiss Mansion. The County would not enter into agreements with entities other than the property owners; CMI is the fundraising arm for the City and since the City owns the property it is responsible for the bidding, purchasing and record keeping for the project.

Vice Mayor Best moved to adopt the resolution. Councilman Espino seconded the motion which carried 5-0 on roll call vote (Resolution No. 2009-3445).

10B) Updating of Fund Balance Designations

City Manager Borgmann referred to his memorandum and a spreadsheet prepared by the Finance Director outlining the current fund balances and corresponding designations set by prior Council. He explained that the current fund balance, less 15% for budgeted expenditures, is \$1.2MM.

City Manager Borgmann stated that it is not imperative for Council to take action at this time; it is only a report showing the reserves and how the funds are designated. He noted that \$1,060,000 was put aside for the gymnasium/recreation Community Center, which has not been spent. Since all expenses are covered for the Community Center, Council could re-designate the funds for other purposes if they so desired.

Vice Mayor Best asked if it would be beneficial to utilize the funds to pay down the debt with SunTrust for the Community Center.

Mayor Bain stated that funds were set aside for the Community Center each year since he was first elected. He felt that paying down the debt is an option for Council to consider.

City Manager Borgmann explained that Commissioner Rebeca Sosa allocated an additional \$1MM, the decision was made to borrow \$2.5MM and that is why \$1,060,000 remains in the bank. He noted that the actual balance as of September 30, 2008 is \$2.7MM according to Finance Director Robinson.

Vice Mayor Best recalled that there is no prepayment penalty on the SunTrust loan.

City Manager Borgmann explained there is a new federal program which will pay 35 percentage points based on the interest rate on the loan as part of a stimulus package. The City would have to refinance the note, which is being researched.

City Manager Borgmann reiterated that Council is not required to make any decision about the fund balance; the numbers are being presented for information. After the various Workshops and Town Hall meetings, Council may want to designate some of the funds toward parking, etc.

10C) Discussion Regarding the City's New Website (Requested by Councilman Espino)

City Manager Borgmann stated that the Administration had been working on updating the City's website. The City is utilizing the services of Wally Clark for the redevelopment of the Police website, which will be accessible through the City's website.

Councilman Espino said that Council discussed the website at length during the Special meeting and Councilman Lob expressed a desire to further discuss the issue. The City Clerk provided an e-mail showing the beta version and he would like to see some changes. During the campaign he researched other municipalities' websites.

City Manager Borgmann explained that the beta version was similar to the old site and it is nothing like the new version that is being developed. He displayed the new Police website on the overhead projector and explained that it was made to be as complete as possible without offering too much information. It provides contact information and information on programs, bicycle safety, etc.

To answer Councilman Lob's question, Chief Baan responded that they were in the process of posting all the brochures on the police website.

Mayor Bain asked if there is a problem with entering the Facebook.

Assistant City Manager Gorland explained that the City of Coral Springs contacted the State of Florida for approval regarding Facebook. The problem is that all postings must be recaptured at a later date if there is a public records request and there is no system to track the information on Facebook or Twitter.

Councilman Espino felt that the difference is whether it is an individual hosting the City's Facebook page or the City posting a Facebook page.

City Attorney Seiden stated that there is a potential problem when information goes back and forth.

City Manager Borgmann explained that the problem is that the correspondence becomes public record and there is no ability to recapture the information.

City Attorney Seiden explained that the public records law started as a simple open government concept, which has expanded over the years making record retention more difficult. As technology takes over, it should be simpler, but it is becoming more difficult.

Mayor Bain proposed using Facebook as an avenue to circulate information without spending a lot of money on brochures to promote the Golf Course or the Community Center. His idea was to disburse information, not to receive information.

City Manager Borgmann responded that it would be easy to post the City's home page. The difficulty is when there is two-way communication because both sides of the correspondence become a public record.

Councilwoman Ator suggested making a policy not to respond and people can post their comments underneath.

Vice Mayor Best said that Councilwoman Ator made a good point because it would allow the feature of having Facebook.

Assistant City Manager Gorland stated that the sites are not hosted by Miami Springs; they are commercial operations and Facebook has not determined how to make a profit. It is up to the City to control the information, and Twitter is totally different because it is a two-way communication and hundreds of people can sign up to receive information that automatically comes up on their phone.

Councilwoman Lob said that once the City's website is functional, using Facebook or Twitter to bring people to the website would meet the goal.

Councilwoman Ator was in favor of people posting their comments as long as there are no responses back.

City Attorney Seiden said that technically the correspondence is a communication that has been transmitted to the City and he would recommend waiting for a decision on whether or not it is considered a public record.

Councilman Espino explained that there could be derogatory comments received and the fact that it is public record means that it cannot be deleted. Facebook is one facet of the marketing strategy the City needs as a whole.

Councilman Espino found that the problem with the majority of government websites is that they have too much information which is buried in a page. He said that the Town of Miami Lakes has a tremendous website as far as the layout and means of accessing information. It is a website that takes modern applications into consideration; the synergy of information is properly designated and easily accessible. He suggested contacting Miami Lakes for advice.

Vice Mayor Best commented that it is useful to be able to make service requests and download forms on-line.

Councilman Espino added that Miami Lakes has a survey page for citizens to post their comments on different issues. When a website has incorrect or old information it loses its credibility for viable information. A website should be easy to update with current information and more people will access it.

To answer Mayor Bain's question, Assistant City Manager Gorland responded that the City has an account on Facebook and Twitter and it will be turned on with Council's direction.

Councilwoman Ator stated that Facebook and Twitter must allow people to become fans or else there is no way to communicate with them. There must be a way to respond back.

Assistant City Manager Gorland said that one of the points raised by the City Attorney is that more information is needed as to what would be considered a public record. The City does not host Facebook or Twitter and there is no way to capture the information.

Councilwoman Ator thought that the problem was the circulation of information back and forth.

City Manager Borgmann confirmed that any information posted by the City is public information. The issue is when someone responds back on another website and whether or not it is a public record if the City does not respond.

City Attorney Seiden explained that the records law states that any information that is received by the City in any fashion is a public record. He would be conservative and wait until the court makes a ruling. Someone could file a public records request for a listing of all the friends of the City.

City Attorney Seiden said that in order to meet the public record requirements, all correspondence would have to be printed and cataloged everyday of the year. The City of Coral Springs attorney has made a request for an opinion from the Attorney General. Technically, if the correspondence goes to a hosting site and never comes to the City it might not be, by definition, a public record.

City Manager Borgmann asked if someone who signs up to be a “friend” would provide their e-mail address.

Councilwoman Ator stated that signing up as a friend would allow the City to have access to that person’s information. For example, if she became a fan of the City, everyone else that is a fan of the City would have access to her information on her Facebook page unless they are blocked.

Mayor Bain suggested postponing the discussion about Facebook until a later date.

Councilman Lob knows that Council will have input on the new website, but he would like to be informed of what ideas are being considered.

City Manager Borgmann referred to the Town of Miami Lakes website and said that certain aspects of the design could be incorporated into the City’s new website. He explained that the designer of the website is Innovative Internet Solutions and they could be contacted to find out how much they charged Miami Lakes for their service. The charge for the work that has been done so far on the City’s new website only totals \$2,000 and some past estimates were in the \$25,000 range.

Assistant City Manager Gorland added that an expensive website needs a very active webmaster in order to keep the information current, which becomes very complicated. He checked websites for other cities and found that they were quite expensive to own and operate. Priorities for the website must be determined; there are many reasons for a website, mainly communication to the residents so that it is quick and easy to find information. The Administration is currently working on a “mini” in-house program and it seems that Council might want to spend the funds to do something different. If that is the case, the design on the current website would be put on hold.

Mayor Bain felt that the Administration should design the website to the best of their ability, and Facebook is a less expensive means of circulating information, which could be incorporated with the website.

Councilwoman Ator would like to be able to broadcast the Council meetings on the website and Councilman Lob agreed.

City Manager Borgmann stated that the Information Technology (IT) Department is working to obtain information to see exactly how much it would cost and what type of equipment must be purchased to broadcast the meetings on the website.

10D) Recommendation that Council Approve an Expenditure of \$122,740.97 to Rechten International Trucks, Inc., Utilizing Florida Sheriffs Association County Contract # 08-16-0908, as provided in Section 31.11 (E) (5) of the City Code to Replace a Lightning Loader (Vehicle # 506), to be Paid out of the Sanitation Fund

City Manager Borgmann stated that the Public Works Department is behind on collecting trash because one crane was in the shop for repairs and a recall notice was issued on the second trash crane that rendered it useless.

City Manager Borgmann read the title of the award. He explained that the original plan was to allocate funds for the purchase of this equipment in the upcoming budget, but under the current circumstances, the recommendation is to order one as soon as possible with a delivery date of approximately 135 days. The equipment is needed because the summer months will promote heavy growth, and there could be debris from future hurricanes or storms.

Vice Mayor Best asked when the recalled unit would be placed back in service and Public Works Director Robert Williams responded that the recall was taken care of by checking the unit to find the metal fatigue. The problem is that there were also mechanical problems with the transmission.

City Manager Borgmann added that the cost of the repairs for the two existing pieces of equipment that were purchased in 2000 and 2002 totals the cost of the purchase of new cranes.

To answer the Mayor's question, Mr. Williams explained that two existing cranes are used full-time and he would like to keep one as a spare.

City Manager Borgmann confirmed that funds are available in the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Sanitation Fund to cover the entire cost. The Administration will prepare a budget amendment for Council approval at the next meeting.

Councilman Espino asked if this particular type of equipment is prone to mechanical failures or if the reason was due to the age of the equipment.

Public Works Director Williams responded that the life of the equipment is eight to ten years and they had provided good service, but the problems are due to age.

Vice Mayor Best moved the item. Councilwoman Ator seconded the motion, which carried 5-0 on roll call vote.

11. Other Business:

None.

12. Reports & Recommendations:

12A) City Attorney

City Attorney Seiden had nothing additional to report.

12B) City Manager

Webcast

City Manager Borgmann informed Council that the Administration is already looking into a webcast.

Evaluation Form

City Manager Borgmann reported that Councilwoman Ator had suggested providing an evaluation form as a guideline for Council to follow when they consider the vote of confidence for the City Manager in October. He explained that the City is collecting sample forms from other jurisdictions and will decide which form is the best for Miami Springs.

Commercial/Multi-family Recycling

City Manager Borgmann stated that the Administration is looking into commercial and multi-family recycling. There are 137 accounts for small apartment units that used to have recycling, but the County's new recycling system only provides containers for single-family homes.

Mayor Bain was of the opinion that a recycling program is provided by the private commercial waste companies that pick up the garbage.

The City Manager will check into the Mayor's suggestion.

Councilman Espino asked about the program that is used by the City of North Miami that provides incentives for recycling.

City Manager Borgmann explained that North Miami already owned their recycling system and equipment and they gave the operation to a private company who splits the profit with the City. The situation for Miami Springs is different because the City is under contract with the County. He did speak with the County representative who reported that recycling has doubled within the County with the new containers.

Transit Stimulus Funds

City Manager Borgmann reported that there are critical deadlines to meet this week in order to be eligible for federal stimulus transit funds. The City has approximately \$130,000 available; the County is the applicant and the cities are the sub-applicants. Funds will be used for the bike paths, bus stops and improving the shuttle, etc.

Comprehensive Plan Amendments

City Manager Borgmann stated that South Florida Regional Planning Council has approved the elements of the City's Comprehensive Plan that were submitted to date, which will be transmitted to Tallahassee. He will provide further updates as information is available.

Pawn Shop

City Manager Borgmann said that Chief of Police Peter Baan asked the pawn shop company to contact him with information regarding the other locations and they have not yet responded.

Ludlam Drive Tree Project

City Manager Borgmann stated that the Administration met last week with representatives of the company that was awarded the bid for the Ludlam Drive tree project. The County was deeded the property along the canal bank in 2007, which was previously owned by the Florida East Coast Railroad (FEC).

City Attorney Seiden asked if the ownership of the canal had changed.

City Manager Borgmann responded that the City was under the impression for years that it was the FEC Borrow Canal, but it appears that this has changed.

City Attorney Seiden recalled that at a meeting a number of years ago the County said they were having a difficult time with FEC in maintaining the canal and perhaps they turned it over to the County.

City Manager Borgmann informed Council that the tree project will begin in Virginia Gardens and extend down through Miami Springs. The details for removing the trees will be determined.

Pool Slide

City Manager Borgmann reported that there are significant structural problems with the municipal swimming pool slide and it will be closed off to the public. Repairs could be approximately \$20,000 and the slide originally cost \$32,000 seven years ago, so it might be time to purchase a new one.

Tex Ziadie

City Manager Borgmann announced that Harold “Tex” Ziadie will undergo knee surgery on Tuesday, May 12th and everyone should keep him in their prayers.

Computer Electric

In response to a previous Council inquiry, the City Manager informed Council that Computer Electric charges the overtime rate for any work or service calls that are generated outside the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. As a courtesy, they have never charged the City at the overtime rate for any work performed outside of their regular hours.

12C) City Council

Keep Citizens Informed

Councilman Lob stressed the importance of keeping the residents informed regarding the Ludlam tree project and the Community Center construction. He said that circulating sufficient information would prevent the City from receiving a lot of calls.

Happy Mother’s Day

Councilman Lob wished all mothers a happy belated Mother’s Day.

Thank You

Councilman Espino reported that he, Mayor Bain and Councilwoman Ator attended the Miami Springs Middle School Arbor Day Ceremony. He thanked Principal Maria Mason, Ms. Ferrer, Bob and Shelly Shultz and all the students that were involved in planting many trees.

Blessed Trinity Golf Tournament

Councilman Espino announced that Blessed Trinity is hosting its annual golf tournament at the Miami Springs Golf and Country Club on Saturday, May 30th starting at 7:00 p.m.

Father Carney

Councilman Espino stated that Father Carney from Blessed Trinity is undergoing quadruple heart bypass surgery on Tuesday, May 12th and for everyone to keep him in their prayers.

Commercial Enhancement

Councilman Espino reported that on Wednesday, May 13th at 7:00 p.m. at the Miami Springs Golf and Country Club he would be hosting a conversation about commercial enhancement with the Chamber of Commerce and Council is invited to attend.

Alligator

Councilwoman Ator reported that the Police Department was called regarding a large alligator in Miami Springs.

Prince Field Signage

Councilwoman Ator stated that last winter there was some confusion about the hours of operation for the “Let’s Build It” park at Prince Field and she wants to make sure the signage is clear before the summer.

Assistant City Manager Gorland explained that the signage is correct and replacement signs have been ordered for signs that were vandalized.

Student Recognition

Vice Mayor Best stated that it was refreshing to see all the students that were recognized for their art and writing contest skills at the beginning of the meeting. He said that the High School Mu Alpha Theta Math Club does very well in competitions throughout the country, which says something about the community’s interest in the arts for which he is grateful.

Goals and Objectives

Mayor Bain expressed his concern about the issues that were discussed at the Workshop Meeting on goals and objectives because each project received only one or two votes, but all were very important to the future success of the City. He is wondering how each project was perceived and which are considered important or not. He brought up the issue because it appears that issues with only one vote would not have been proposed for this meeting and they were not. The skateboard park is an important issue to him and it only had two votes, which meant to him that it would not be considered.

218 Springs Avenue

Mayor Bain stated that the house at 218 Springs Avenue has an alleyway on the side and there is only one-foot, while most alleyways have five or six feet on either side of the alley. This is a special case and he would like to see what can be done about the trucks going down the alleyway that are causing dust and vibrations.

Public Works Director Robert Williams offered to visit the site and come back with recommendations.

Mayor Bain suggested that the area could be paved and speed bumps installed.

Miami Springs Elementary

Mayor Bain reported that he had the opportunity to speak to the 5th grade class at Miami Springs Elementary School to answer questions that he received from the students via e-mail. He thanked Principal Sally Hutchings and acknowledged the students for their imagination and creativity.

Career Day

Mayor Bain announced that he would be speaking at two schools on Wednesday, May 13th for Career Day, which is a unique opportunity that is a lot of fun. He said that it is surprising to see how the students feel about the country and their future. Students Ian Alvarez and Jeremy González called him at work after researching his personal information on the website.

13. Adjourn.

There being no further business to be discussed the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Billy Bain
Mayor

ATTEST:

Magalí Valls, CMC
City Clerk

Approved as written during meeting of: 5/26/2009.
Transcription assistance provided by S. Hitaffer.